

**Opening Statement of Chairman Greg Walden**  
**Subcommittee on Energy**  
**Hearing on “DOE Modernization: Advancing DOE’s Mission for National,**  
**Economic, and Energy Security of the United States”**  
**January 9, 2018**

*(As prepared for delivery)*

Good morning and welcome to this morning’s hearing as we continue our efforts to modernize the Department of Energy. In October, we heard directly from Secretary Perry on his vision for the department and today we will hear from his top lieutenants as to how the secretary’s vision will be advanced.

We also have a distinguished second panel, featuring important perspectives on DOE’s various operations concerning the national labs, nuclear oversight, research and energy security challenges. I appreciate all of our witnesses joining us today.

It is always a pleasure to welcome Energy and Commerce alumni back to the committee. Both Deputy Secretary Brouillette and Under Secretary Menezes served this committee with distinction – Dan as staff director and Mark as the Energy and Environment Chief Counsel. I appreciate that you know how this committee operates, and look forward to accomplishing much together.

I also understand that Under Secretary Dabbar visited the Hanford site last week, which I appreciate. Hanford is just up the Columbia River from my Oregon district and all of us in the Pacific Northwest have a great interest in seeing the cleanup there completed. I would also like to recognize Administrator Klotz’s long service to our country. General Klotz has served in distinguished positions in both Republican and Democrat administrations throughout his career, including almost four years as NNSA Administrator.

While the domestic and international energy posture is substantially different from what it was when Congress established the department over 40 years ago, the importance of DOE’s role in serving the national and public interest has increased. We are reaping the benefits of energy abundance, but legacy challenges remain, such as cleanup of Cold War sites and permanent disposal of nuclear waste. New risks have evolved, such as cyber security threats to the electric grid and managing and overseeing the modernization of our aging energy infrastructure. Our responsibility is to ensure a modernized DOE is fully prepared to meet these 21<sup>st</sup> Century challenges.

As we examine the DOE management and mission priorities today, we should keep in mind the benefits of the interconnected nature of the department's missions. These missions – national security, energy security, environmental remediation, and mission-enabling scientific research—across the DOE enterprise can be difficult and expensive to manage. I am confident that the team of professionals on our first panel today are up to this task. This committee will work through remainder of this Congress, and beyond, to ensure the department's organization and missions are aligned with the energy security challenges of today and are nimble enough to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

At my direction, the committee has been examining whether DOE resources are focused on its core missions. Going forward, we will review certain DOE authorizations – many of which expired over a decade ago – to ensure proper program alignment. I believe, in collaboration with DOE, many bipartisan, good government policies can be implemented. I look forward to a positive working relationship.

The basic scientific and applied energy research conducted throughout the DOE lab system is the foundation for new technological advances. These advances enable us to remain an international leader in innovation, security, and scientific know how. This is the fundamental question before us today: how can we best harness the department's enormous scientific, technical, and world-class capabilities to enhance America's national, economic, and energy security? I look forward to hearing from all the witnesses today.